

**Town Meeting Coordinating Committee Meeting
Minutes of Meeting of January 31, 2008**

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:02pm. Present were Phil Jackson, Otto Stein, Peggy Roberts, Judy Simpson, Stephanie O'Keeffe and Carol Gray (with Harry Brooks arriving five minutes late).
- 2. Minutes:** On a motion by Judy (second by Otto), the minutes from the January 24 meeting were approved unanimously after minor edits.
- 3. Mailing to TM members of expiring terms:** Judy got from Harry the TMCC account number to pay for the mailing of the cards to members who have expiring terms. Judy checked the clerk's office yesterday to see who had yet to sign up for another term.
- 4. Information forum on CPAC and JCPC:** Peggy had the idea of having two people present about the JCPC, one telling the history of the organization and the other talking about how it works. Carol suggested we have two talking about CPAC as well and will be calling the Boston CPA office to see if they have anyone who might come speak about what is happening with CPAC across the state.

Phil asked why we are limiting the forum to just CPA and JCPC and not dealing with the budget in general. Judy said the last budget forum was taped by ACTV so we could get a DVD of that session to put on reserve at the library. Phil said that forum did have specifics about that year's budget. Phil raised a concern about having a forum about CPAC if it looks like a raise in CPAC funding might be on the ballot. Peggy pointed out that it's important to maintain neutrality.

Harry said we could also consider adding the topic of enterprise funds.

Judy and Carol are on the subcommittee working on this forum.

The forum was scheduled for April 10, from 7:30pm-9pm in the Town Room. Judy will book the room with Judy or Kate in the Town Manager's Office. Peggy said Kate could take care of lining up ACTV.

5. Warrant Review:

It was decided that the Warrant Review will be April 17, 7pm for orientation and 7:30pm for the warrant review. Peggy had reserved the Middle School for the 10th as well, but will cancel the 10th date. Peggy will call Harrison to ask him to moderate the event.

6. Bus Tour:

Peggy had asked Jonathan Tucker if there are going to be planning articles on the Warrant. It is likely that only the request to rezone land on Sunderland Road, which was dismissed at the fall meeting, would be on the Warrant.

We talked about having the bus tour on April 12. Peggy suggested it might be a bad idea to do the bus tour before the Warrant Review. It was discussed that Town Meeting members may not have yet received their warrant and packet information yet. Carol was concerned that having the bus tour this early would mean lower attendance since people would have barely gotten (or not yet received) their packets. Harry said we could put a free notice in the Bulletin and it could be announced at the candidates' night. The problem with the next two weekends after the 12th is that it is school vacation week. Judy moved and Stephanie seconded that we have the bus tour on Sunday, April 13. The motion was voted, 6 in favor and 1 (Carol) against. Harry will check to see if Mary Wentworth is available that date and would be willing to work on the bus tour. The time will be from 2-4pm. Harry will call ACTV to see if they can do that time.

7. Disks of ACTV Information Meetings in Library

Harry will follow up with ACTV about this. He said ACTV is taking all the old programs and putting them on CD's. Judy spoke to Bonnie Isman at the library and she is delighted to help us out. What the League of Women Voters has done in the past is have a shelf behind the desk for information. We could also have a notebook in the reference department. We could also put one up in Special Collections. They have a screen so someone can watch it there themselves in case they don't have equipment at home. The sense was that it would be good to have the information in reference so people could access it themselves.

8. Materials for the Two packets to TM members

Judy wants to put a request for mentor volunteers in the packet for Town Meeting members. Carol said she would like to have us talk about whether we're going to be pairing people with mentors versus giving new town meeting members a list of possible mentors. Someone pointed out that the initial request would just be for volunteers so we could talk at a later time about whether the new Town Meeting members would be paired up with a mentor or provided a mentor list.

9. Babysitting:

Carol made a motion that TMCC do a letter to the Select Board saying we have received several concerns from Town Meeting members about babysitting needs requesting that the Select Board take some action on this issue and attaching the 2004 Town Meeting resolution about babysitting. Peggy and Harry both said they had heard requests for babysitting from several Town Meeting members. Carol said babysitting assistance would help add diversity to Town Meeting, noting that there were very few Town Meeting members with small children. Peggy said the profile of Town Meeting members back in the 1960s was not very representative.

Phil said there is no precedence for TMCC to do something like this. Harry said TMCC suggested warrant review and bus tours, so there are things the TMCC has initiated on its own. He also pointed out that the \$300 that is paid to Select Board members was

originally for babysitting. Stephanie said she would vote against the motion in part because it didn't seem appropriate to separate this issue out from all the other issues that had been raised in suggestions to Town Meeting. Phil said that it was a conflict of interest for Carol to be advocating on this issue since she would benefit from it.

Carol said it would be helpful even just to provide babysitting at the school as is done for Pelham Town Meeting where there are many kids in a room watching a movie, but pointed out that the motion was just bringing the issue to the attention of the Select Board, rather than making any recommendations about how to address babysitting needs.

A vote was taken on this motion: 3 in favor (Carol, Harry & Peggy), 3 against (Phil, Stephanie & Otto) and one abstention (Judy). Lacking a majority, no action will be taken.

10. Precinct Meetings:

Harry said he and Claude Tellier would coordinate their precinct meeting. Carol said she had nothing to report on this topic yet and asked for it to be carried over to the next agenda.

11. TMCC Agendas and Minutes on the Town Web site: Stephanie said Kris said the town is in the process of redoing the Town Web site to make it possible for people to put up their own information. She said this could be happening in the next few weeks so queried whether we would want to try to have our agendas and minutes posted now if the whole system is to be changed shortly. Peggy had asked Gail who posts agendas and minutes and she said they only post theirs. Carol asked if we could put the agendas and the minutes up on the website as soon as possible since we had been discussing doing this for months.

12. Future Agendas: Items planned are: the processing of suggestions, meeting with ACTV.

13. Meeting Times:

Carol requested meeting in the evenings because of child care. Phil said early evening is okay with him as long as it's not Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. It was pointed out that Monday night is Select Board meeting. TMCC meetings were set for Monday, February 11; Tuesday, March 4; Monday, March 10; March 27, and April 8, each day from 5:00pm-6:30pm.

Harry will ask that the director of ACTV come to our meeting for Feb. 11. Peggy asked for people to send her a list of ideas of what to talk to him about.

14. Adjournment: Carol moved, Otto seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn at 5:35pm.
Carol Gray, Secretary